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NEW YORK TIMES

file "Leaks"

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BUG-CIA STAKES - ADDATENDUM
(EXCLUSIVE; 10 P.M. EDT EMBARGO)
BY SEYMOUR M. HERSH
DEC.12 N.Y. TIMES NEWS SERVICES

NEW YORK - SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ARE OPENLY EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT WHAT THEY SAY ARE WEAKNESSES IN THE CONGRESSIONAL CONTROL AND MONITORING OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S COVERT ACTIVITIES OVERSEAS.

THEY CITE AS EVIDENCE THE WILLINGNESS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES TO APPROVE CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS WITHOUT SERIOUS QUESTIONING IN SUCH SENSITIVE REGIONS AS THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA.

THREE SUCH OPERATIONS, INVOLVING THE SHIPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT AND THE SUDAN AND AN ANTI-CUBAN PROPAGANDA PROGRAM IN THE HORN OF AFRICA WERE APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEES LAST FALL, ACCORDING TO WELL-PLACED SOURCES.

SOME LEGISLATORS WERE KNOWN TO HAVE HAD SUBSEQUENT MISGIVINGS ABOUT AT LEAST ONE OPERATION, BUT NO OBJECTIONS WERE VOICED AT THE TIME, THE SAME SOURCES SAID.

THE CIA'S OPERATIONS ALSO WERE APPROVED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE SPECIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE, HIS NEW CABINET-LEVEL GROUP THAT REVIEWS AND ASSESSES ALL CLANDESTINE ACTIVITY. THE COMMITTEE IS HEADED BY ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER.

THERE IS NO LEGISLATION BARRING THE CIA FROM ENGAGING IN COVERT ACTIVITIES ABROAD BUT THE QUICK ENDORSEMENT BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES LAST YEAR OF THE THREE COVERT OPERATIONS DISCONCERTED SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO HAD ALREADY RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VARIOUS COMMAND-AND-CONTROL MECHANISMS SET UP IN THE WAKE OF THE CIA DOMESTIC SPYING SCANDALS, THE NEW YORK TIMES'S SOURCES SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE ACKNOWLEDGED IN RECENT INTERVIEWS THAT THE PROCESS OF GAINING THE RIGHT TO COMPLETE OVERSIGHT OVER THE CIA'S ACTIVITY WAS A SLOW ONE.

BUT THEY INSISTED, AS ONE SENIOR STAFF AIDE SAID, THAT "EVERY AREA OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY, THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO COVER THE WATERFRONT FROM TOP TO BOTTOM."

THE BROAD QUESTION OF CONGRESSIONAL CONTROL OVER THE CIA'S COVERT ACTIVITIES WAS ALSO RAISED BY THE SCANDAL OVER ILLEGAL CIA SPYING THREE YEARS AGO. ONE IMMEDIATE SOLUTION WAS TO EXPAND TO EIGHT THE NUMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ENTITLED TO BRIEFINGS ON SUCH

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ACTIVITIES. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, AN INQUIRY BY THE NEW YORK TIMES SHOWED THAT WHILE THE FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES WAS BRIEFED, ONLY A FEW MEMBERS OF THE OTHER SIX COMMITTEES WERE INFORMED OF THE COVERT OPERATIONS AND USUALLY AFTER THE FACT.

BECAUSE OF THE PAST CONTROVERSY OVER THE AGENCY'S INVOLVEMENT IN CHILE AND ELSEWHERE, SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE KNOWN TO BELIEVE, THE SECURITY FOR SUCH OPERATIONS ARE ALL THE MORE FRAGILE AND, THUS, THE ACTIVITIES RISKIER.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE EXISTENCE OF THE CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA WAS DISCLOSED AS PRESIDENT CARTER AND KEY ADMINISTRATION AIDES WERE BECOMING INVOLVED IN AN INCREASINGLY PUBLIC [illegible] OVER CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS ON FOREIGN [illegible]MENTS.

[illegible] DICK CLARK, D-IOWA, TOLD REPORTERS LAST WEEK THAT HE BELIEVED [illegible] CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS CONSIDERING A RE-ENTRY INTO THE ANGOLAN [illegible] WAR, AND THE PRESIDENT WAS QUOTED AS HAVING MADE CLEAR TO SOME [illegible] THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT A REPEAL OF LEGISLATION BARRING THE [illegible] STATES FROM AIDING A PRO-WESTERN FACTION IN ANGOLA.

[illegible] COVERT OPERATIONS, ALL APPROVED SOMETIME LAST FALL, INCLUDED THE [illegible] COPY OF CLANDESTINE RADIO AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO [illegible] ANWAR EL-SADAT OF EGYPT AND TO PRESIDENT HAFFAR AL-NIMEIRY [illegible] JORDAN.

[illegible]

[illegible]HAMPRO

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